

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03110 270907Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 270846Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6813

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T SEOUL 3110

EXDIS

E.O. 11653 7&\$

5-& : PFOR, KN, US, UN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN NOTE TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REF: (A) STATE 100774, (B) USUN 1683

1. AS INSTRUCTED REF A, I MET THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 27) WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PARK AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH BLUE HOUSE PROTOCOL CHIEF CHOI KWANG-SOO. I GAVE THEM TEXT OF NORTH KOREAN MESSAGE (REF B) AND SOUGHT THEIR VIEWS ON OUR PROPOSED HANDLING OF THIS MESSAGE AS SET FORTH REF A.

2. PARK AND CHOI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR INFORMING THEM ABOUT NORTH KOREAN MESSAGE. BOTH STATED THAT ROKG WISHED TO CONSIDER MESSAGE AND OUR PROPOSED HANDLING BEFORE GIVING CONSIDERED RESPONSE. PARK'S ONLY INITIAL COMMENT WAS TO EMPHASIZE DESIRABILITY OF US NOT MEETING SEPARATELY WITH NORTH KOREANS, AS SET FORTH IN OUR PROPOSED RESPONSE. BOTH HE AND CHOI WERE INTERESTED IN EXACT DATE OF NORTH KOREAN DELIVERY OF MESSAGE SINCE NOTE IS DATED MARCH 11. I TOLD THEM THAT I WAS NOT CERTAIN, BUT THAT MY IMPRESSION WAS NOTE HAD BEEN DELIVERED IN RECENT DAYS. CHOI ALSO ASKED WHETHER WE WERE UNDER ANY FORMAL OBLIGATION TO RESPOND TO NORTH KOREAN NOTE.

3. COMMENT: I SUSPECT THAT ROKG WILL CONTINUE PROBING ABOUT DATE OF DELIVERY, WHICH I DUCKED, AND MAY ALSO BE

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03110 270907Z

TEMPTED TO SUGGEST THAT WE RETURN NOTE UNANSWERED TO

NORTH KOREANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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